

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 4, 8-14, 22, 24-28, 30, 31, 33, and 35-42 are now pending in the present application. Claims 2, 5-7, 15-21, 23, 29, 32 and 34 have been canceled herein by preliminary amendment in view of the prosecution of these claims in the parent application, U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/007,119 filed January 14, 1998, of the present application. It is further noted that the present application comprises a photocopy of the parent application as filed.

Additionally, the specification has been amended to include a paragraph which reflects the priority claim to the parent application, U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/007,119 filed January 14, 1998.

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayments in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment to Deposit Account No. 50-0426.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: September 18, 2001

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The paragraph beginning at page 1, line 6, has been amended as follows:

--This application is a [regular United States patent application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111(a) based on and claiming priority to United States Provisional Application Serial Number] continuation of co-pending U.S. patent application serial no. 09/007,119 filed January 14, 1998, which claims priority to U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/035,335 filed January 14, 1997, both of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.--

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